

# **DIESEL ENGINE CHARACTERISTIC, INJECTION, IGNITION, AND FUEL AIR MIXING**

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## **Diesel Engine Combustion**

1. Characteristics of diesel combustion
2. Different diesel combustion systems
3. Phenomenological model of diesel combustion process
4. Movie of combustion in diesel systems
5. Combustion pictures and planar laser sheet imaging

## **DIESEL COMBUSTION PROCESS**

### **PROCESS**

- Liquid fuel injected into compressed charge
- Fuel evaporates and mixes with the hot air
- Auto-ignition with the rapid burning of the fuel-air that is “premixed” during the ignition delay period
  - Premixed burning is fuel rich
- As more fuel is injected, the combustion is controlled by the rate of diffusion of air into the flame

## DIESEL COMBUSTION PROCESS

### NATURE OF DIESEL COMBUSTION

- Heterogeneous
  - liquid, vapor and air
  - spatially non-uniform
- turbulent
- diffusion flame
  - High temperature and pressure
  - Mixing limited

## The Diesel Engine

- Intake air not throttled
  - Load controlled by the amount of fuel injected
    - >A/F ratio: idle ~ 80
    - >Full load ~19 (less than overall stoichiometric)
- No “end-gas”; avoid the knock problem
  - High compression ratio: better efficiency
- Combustion:
  - Turbulent diffusion flame
  - Overall lean

## Diesel as the Most Efficient Power Plant

- Theoretically, for the same CR, SI engine has higher  $\eta_f$ ; but diesel is not limited by knock, therefore it can operate at higher CR and achieves higher  $\eta_f$
- Not throttled - small pumping loss
- Overall lean - higher value of  $\gamma$  - higher thermodynamic efficiency
- Can operate at low rpm - applicable to very large engines
  - slow speed, plenty of time for combustion
  - small surface to volume ratio: lower percentage of parasitic losses (heat transfer and friction)
- Opted for turbo-charging: higher energy density
  - Reduced parasitic losses (friction and heat transfer) relative to output

**Large Diesels:  $\eta_f \sim 55\%$   
 $\sim 98\%$  ideal efficiency !**

## Diesel Engine Characteristics (compared to SI engines)

- **Better fuel economy**
  - Overall lean, thermodynamically efficient
  - Large displacement, low speed – lower FMEP
  - Higher CR
    - > CR limited by peak pressure, NOx emissions, combustion and heat transfer loss
  - Turbo-charging not limited by knock: higher BMEP over domain of operation, lower relative losses (friction and heat transfer)
- **Lower Power density**
  - Overall lean: would lead to smaller BMEP
  - Turbocharged: would lead to higher BMEP
    - > not knock limited, but NOx limited
    - > BMEP higher than naturally aspirated SI engine
  - Lower speed: overall power density ( $P/V_D$ ) not as high as SI engines
- **Emissions: more problematic than SI engine**
  - NOx: needs development of efficient catalyst
  - PM: regenerative and continuous traps

### Typical SI and Diesel operating value comparisons

	SI	Diesel
• <b>BMEP</b>		
– Naturally aspirated:	10-15 bar	10 bar
– Turbo:	15-25 bar	15-25 bar
• <b>Power density</b>		
– Naturally aspirated:	50-70 KW/L	20 KW/L
– Turbo:	70-120 KW/L	40-70 KW/L
• <b>Fuel</b>		
– H to C ratio	CH <sub>1.87</sub>	CH <sub>1.80</sub>
– Stoichiometric A/F	14.6	14.5
– Density	0.75 g/cc	0.81 g/cc
– LHV (mass basis)	44 MJ/kg	43 MJ/kg
– LHV (volume basis)	3.30 MJ/L	3.48 MJ/L (5.5% higher)
– LHV (CO <sub>2</sub> basis)	13.9 MJ/kgCO <sub>2</sub>	13.6 MJ/kgCO <sub>2</sub> (2.2% lower)

### Disadvantages of Diesel Engines

- Cold start difficulty
- Noisy - sharp pressure rise: cracking noise
- Inherently slower combustion
- Lower power to weight ratio
- Expensive components
- NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matters emissions

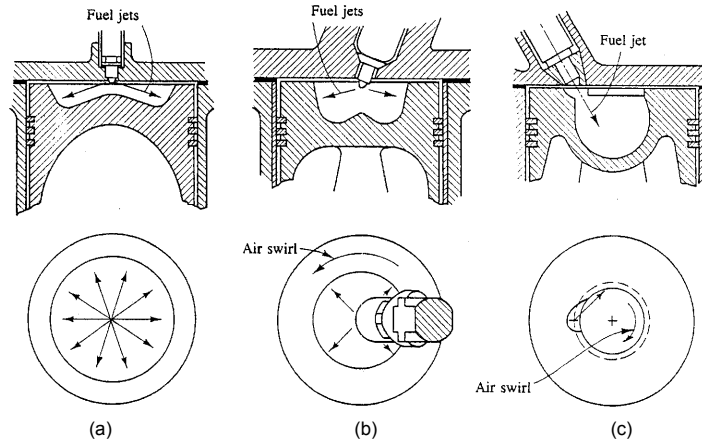
## Market penetration

- **Diesel driving fuel economy ~ 30% better than SI**
  - 5% from fuel energy/volume
  - 15% from eliminating throttle loss
  - 10% from thermodynamics
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> law losses (friction and heat transfer)
    - Higher compression ratio
    - Higher specific heat ratio
- **Dominant world wide heavy duty applications**
- **Dominant military applications**
- **Significant market share in Europe**
  - Tax structure for fuel and vehicle
- **Small passenger car market fraction in US and Japan**
  - Fuel cost
  - Customer preference
  - Emissions requirement

## Applications

- Small (7.5 to 10 cm bore; previously mainly IDI; new ones are high speed DI)
  - passenger cars
- Medium (10 to 20 cm bore; DI)
  - trucks, trains
- Large (30 to 50 cm bore; DI)
  - trains, ships
- Very Large (100 cm bore)
  - stationary power plants, ships

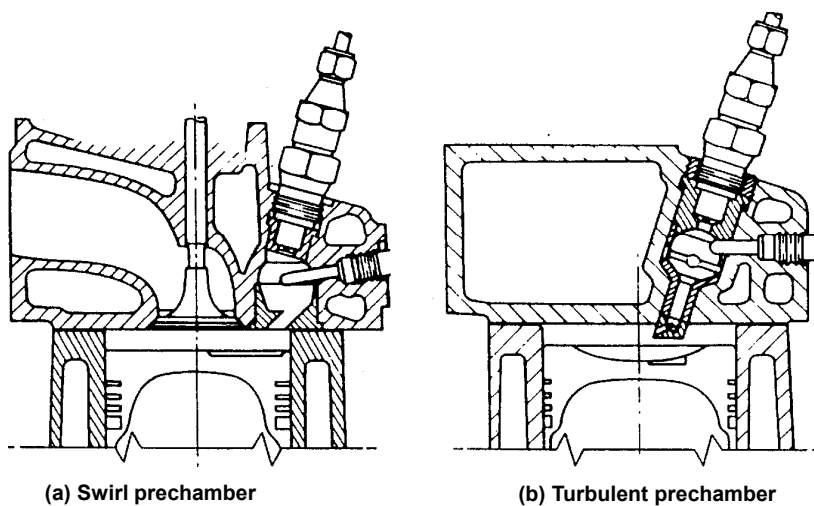
### Common Direct-Injection Compression-Ignition Engines (Fig. 10.1 of text)



- (a) Quiescent chamber with multihole nozzle typical of larger engines
- (b) Bowl-in-piston chamber with swirl and multihole nozzle; medium to small size engines
- (c) Bowl-in-piston chamber with swirl and single-hole nozzle; medium to small size engines

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### Common types of small Indirect-injection diesel engines (Fig. 10.2 of text)



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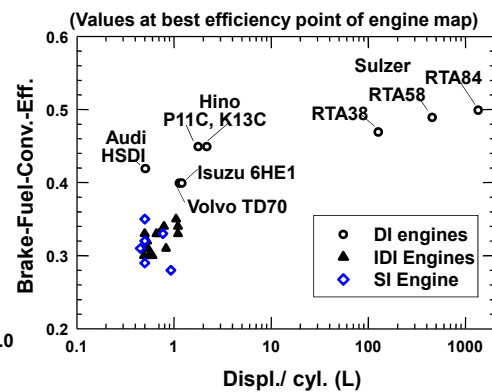
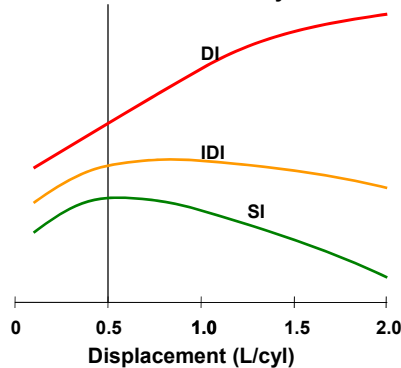
**Common Diesel Combustion Systems (Table 10.1)**

System	Direct injection				Indirect injection	
	Quiescent	Medium swirl	High swirl "M"	High swirl multispray	Swirl chamber	Pre-chamber
Size	Largest	Medium	Medium—smaller	Medium—small	Smallest	Smallest
Cycle	2-/4-stroke	4-stroke	4-stroke	4-stroke	4-stroke	4-stroke
Turbocharged/supercharged/naturally aspirated	TC/S	TC/NA	TC/NA	NA/TC	NA/TC	NA/TC
Maximum speed, rev/min	120–2100	1800–3500	2500–5000	3500–4300	3600–4800	4500
Bore, mm	900–150	150–100	130–80	100–80	95–70	95–70
Stroke/bore	3.5–1.2	1.3–1.0	1.2–0.9	1.1–0.9	1.1–0.9	1.1–0.9
Compression ratio	12–15	15–16	16–18	16–22	20–24	22–24
Chamber	Open or shallow dish	Bowl-in-piston	Deep bowl-in-piston	Deep bowl-in-piston	Swirl pre-chamber	Single/multi-orifice pre-chamber
Air-flow pattern	Quiescent	Medium swirl	High swirl	Highest swirl	Very high swirl in pre-chamber	Very turbulent in pre-chamber
Number of nozzle holes	Multi	Multi	Single	Multi	Single	Single
Injection pressure	Very high	High	Medium	High	Lowest	Lowest

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## Effect of Engine Size

**Fuel Conversion Efficiency**





## Typical Large Diesel Engine Performance Diagram

**Sulzer RLB 90 - MCR 1**  
**Turbo-charged 2-stroke Diesel**  
 – 1.9 m stroke; 0.9 m bore

**Rating:**

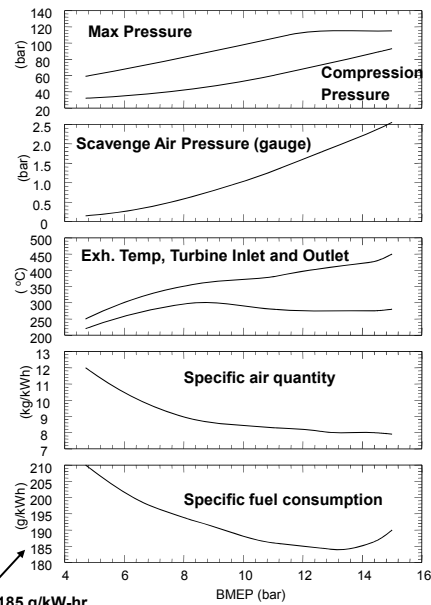
- **Speed:** 102 Rev/ min
- Piston speed 6.46 m/s

- **BMEP:** 14.3 bar

**Configurations**

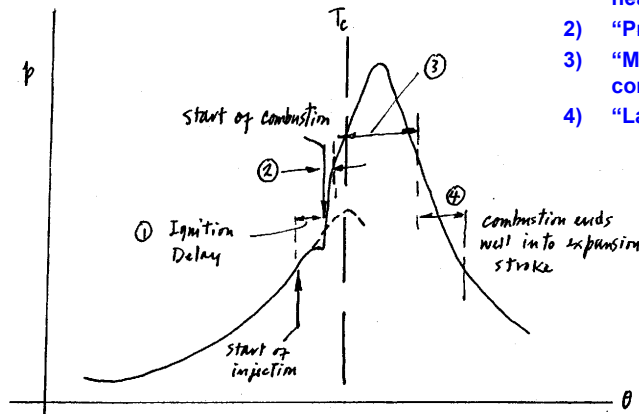
- 4 cyl: 11.8 MW (16000 bhp)
- 5 cyl: 14.7 MW (20000 bhp)
- 6 cyl: 17.7 MW (24000 bhp)
- 7 cyl: 20.6 MW (28000 bhp)
- 8 cyl: 23.5 MW (32000 bhp)
- 9 cyl: 26.5 MW (36000 bhp)
- 10 cyl: 29.4 MW (40000 bhp)
- 12 cyl: 35.3 MW (48000 bhp)

$\eta_{t,b} = 0.45$  @ 185 g/kW-hr



**Sulzer RTA96 engine**

## Diesel combustion process — direct injection



- 1) Ignition delay — no significant heat release
- 2) "Premixed" rapid combustion
- 3) "Mixing controlled" phase of combustion
- 4) "Late" combustion phase

Note:  
(2) is too fast;  
(4) is too slow

## Rate of Heat Release in Diesel Combustion

(Fig. 10.8 of Text)

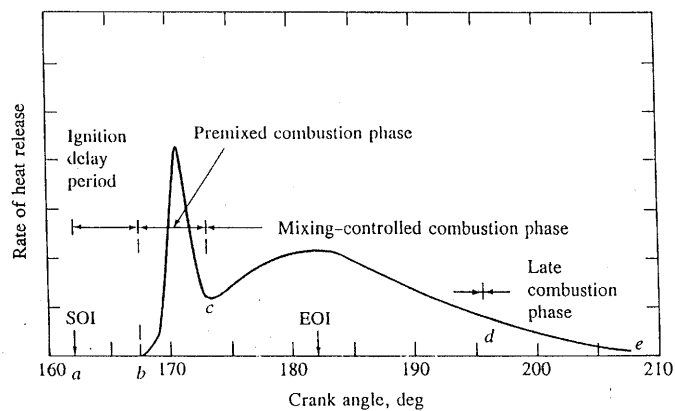
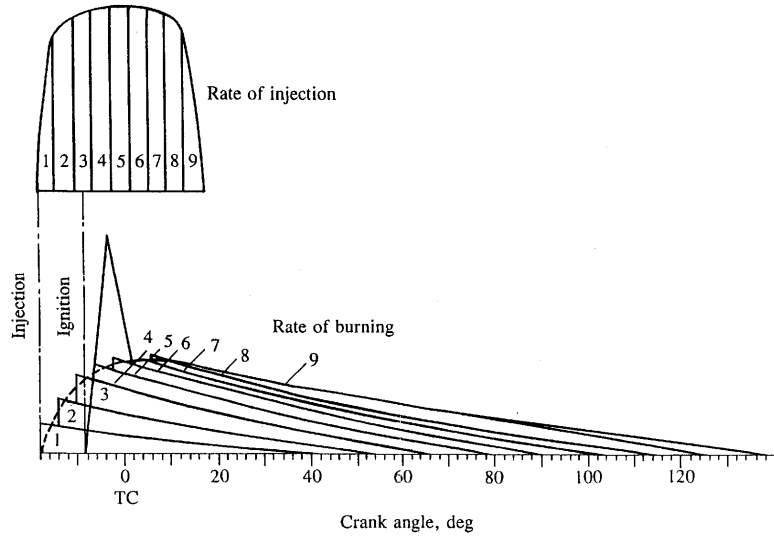


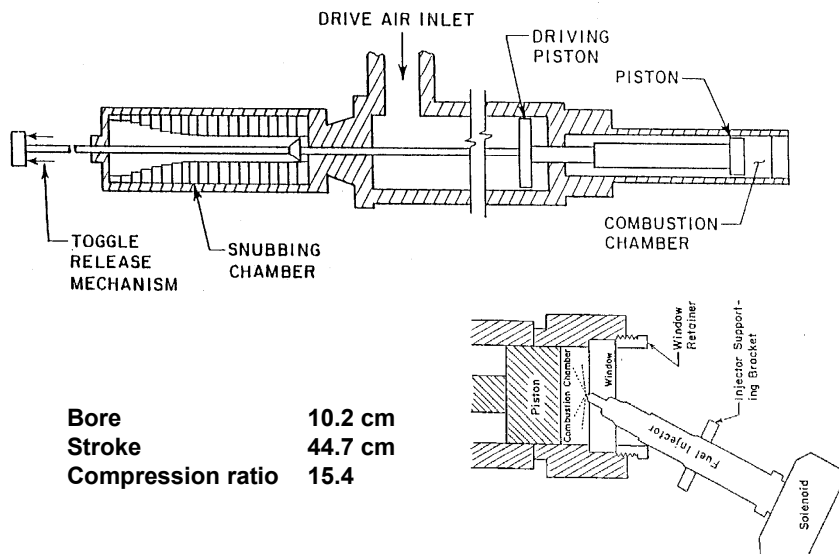
Fig. 10-9

### A Simple Diesel Combustion Concept (Fig. 10-8)



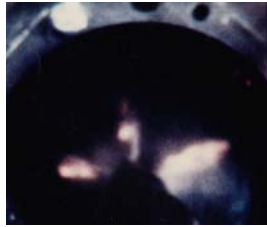
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### Visualization of Diesel Combustion

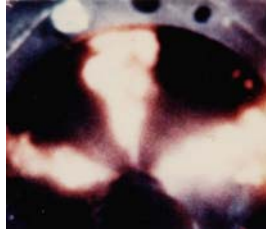


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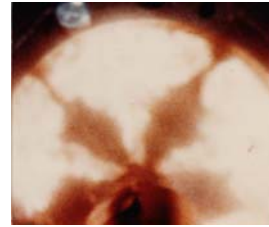
### Images From Diesel Combustion



First occurrence of luminous flame  
(1.0 ms after start of injection)



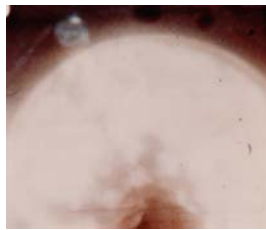
(0.13 ms after ignition)



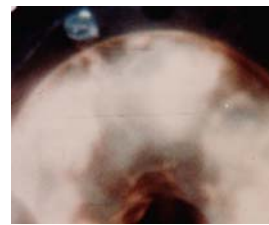
(0.93 ms after ignition)



(1.87 ms after ignition)



End of injection  
(2.67 ms after ignition)



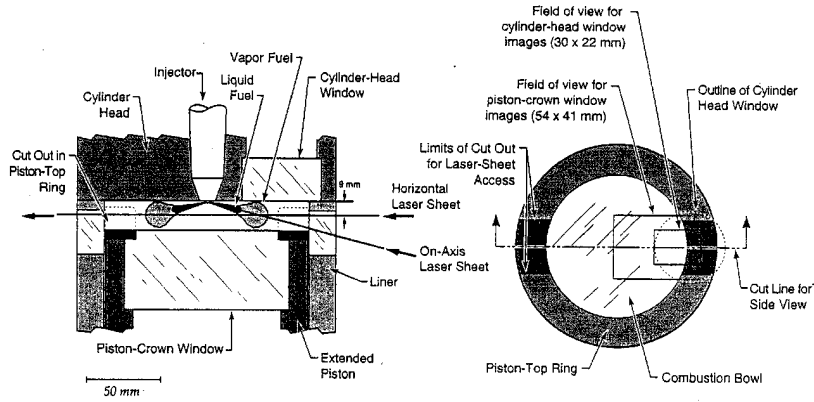
5.33 ms after ignition

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### FEATURES OF DIESEL COMBUSTION

- **Ignition delay**
  - Auto-ignition in different parts of combustion chamber
- **After ignition, fuel sprays into hot burned gas**
  - Then, evaporation process is fast
- **Major part of combustion controlled by fuel air mixing process**
  - Mixing dominated by flow field formed by fuel jet interacting with combustion chamber walls during injection
- **Highly luminous flame:**
  - Substantial soot formation in the fuel rich zone by pyrolysis, followed by substantial subsequent oxidation

## Imaging of Diesel Combustion by Laser Sheet Illumination



Side View of Combustion Chamber

Top View of Piston

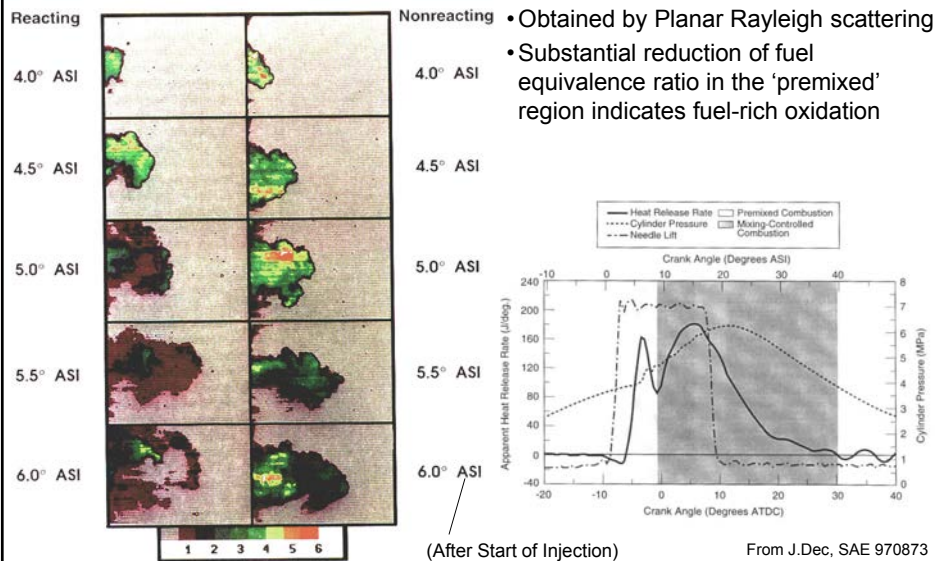
Rayleigh scattering  
reflection from molecules

Laser Induced Fluorescence  
(pump at) OH @284 nm  
PAH @387 nm  
NO @ 226 nm

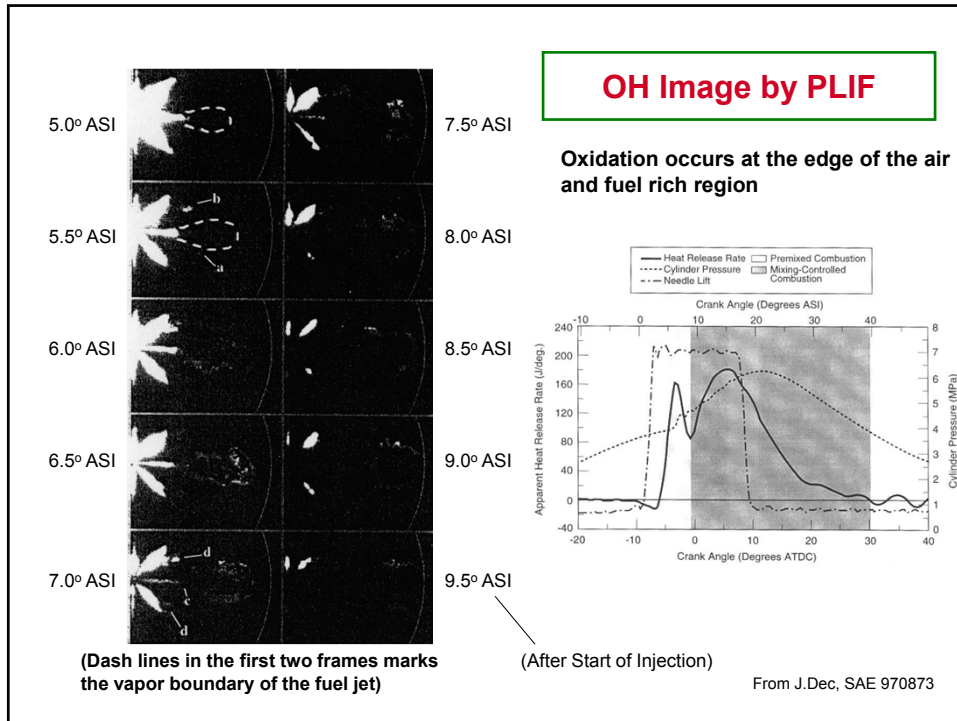
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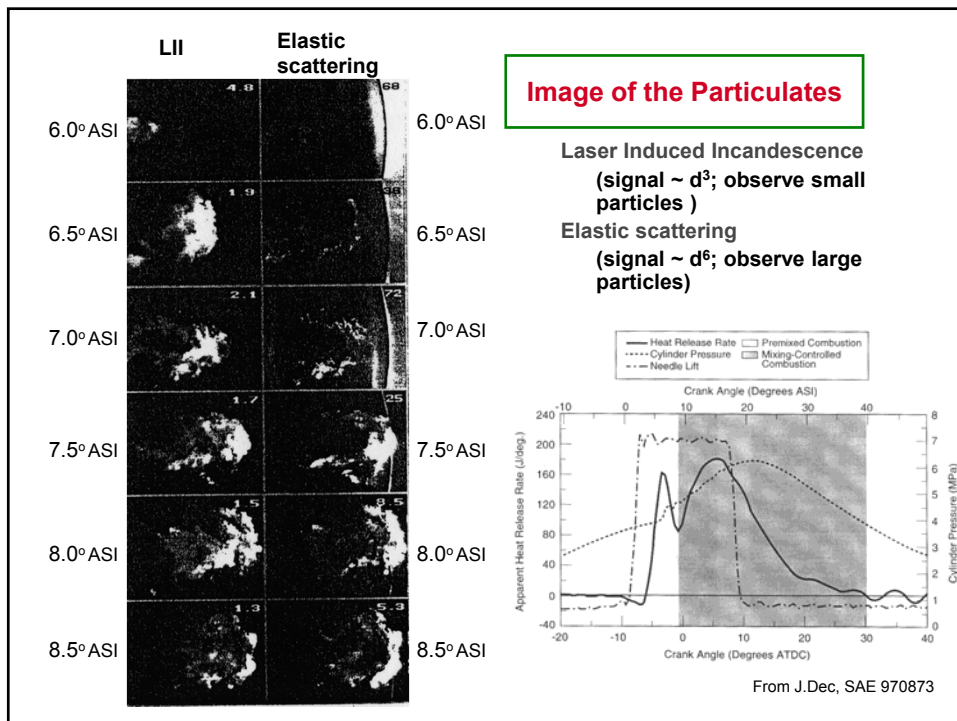
## Fuel Equivalence Ratio



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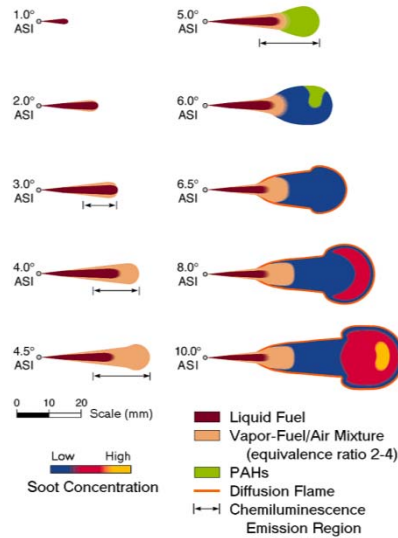


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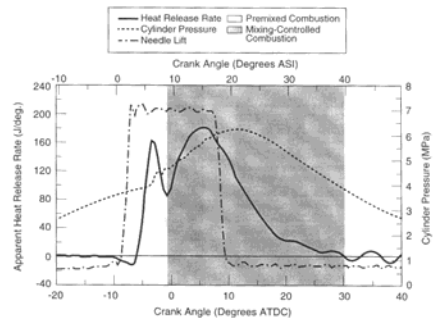


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## Diesel Ignition, Premixed Burning and Transition into Diffusion Burning



- Premixed burning
  - Release of energy from fuel rich combustion
- Diffusion burning
  - Oxidation of incomplete products of the rich premixed combustion and fuel vapor at the 'jet'/ air interface



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## **Diesel injection, ignition, and fuel air mixing**

1. Fuel spray phenomena
2. Spontaneous ignition
3. Effects of fuel jet and charge motion on mixing-controlled combustion
4. Fuel injection hardware
5. Challenges for diesel combustion

## **DIESEL FUEL INJECTION**

### **The fuel spray serves multiple purposes:**

- Atomization
- Fuel distribution
- Fuel/air mixing

### **Typical Diesel fuel injector**

- Injection pressure: 1000 to 2200 bar
- 5 to 20 holes at  $\sim 0.12 - 0.2$  mm diameter
- Drop size  $0.1$  to  $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$
- For best torque, injection starts at about  $20^\circ$  BTDC

### **Injection strategies for NO<sub>x</sub> control**

- Late injection (inj. starts at around TDC)
- Other control strategies:
  - Pilot and multiple injections, rate shaping, water emulsion



## **Diesel Fuel Injection System**

### **(A Major cost of the diesel engine)**

- Performs fuel metering
- Provides high injection pressure
- Distributes fuel effectively
  - Spray patterns, atomization etc.
- Provides fluid kinetic energy for charge mixing

### **Typical systems:**

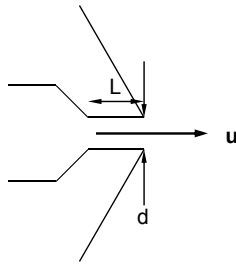
- Pump and distribution system (100 to 1500 bar)
- Common rail system (1000 to 1800 bar)
- Hydraulic pressure amplification
- Unit injectors (1000 to 2200 bar)
- Piezoelectric injectors (1800 bar)
- Electronically controlled

## **EXAMPLE OF DIESEL INJECTION**

(Hino K13C, 6 cylinder, 12.9 L turbo-charged diesel engine, rated at 294KW@2000 rpm)

- Injection pressure = 1400 bar; duration = 40°CA
- BSFC 200 g/KW-hr
- Fuel delivered per cylinder per injection at rated condition
  - 0.163 gm ~0.21 cc (210 mm<sup>3</sup>)
- Averaged fuel flow rate during injection
  - 64 mm<sup>3</sup>/ms
- 8 nozzle holes, at 0.2 mm diameter
  - Average exit velocity at nozzle ~253 m/s

### Typical physical quantities in nozzle flow



- Diesel fuel @ 100°C  
– s.g. ~ 0.78,  $\mu \sim 5 \times 10^{-4}$  N-s/m<sup>2</sup>
- Nozzle diameter ~0.2 mm
- $L/d \sim 5$  to 10
- Reynolds No.  $\sim 10^5$  (turbulent)
- Pressure drop in nozzle  
~30 bar  $\ll$  driving pressure  
(~1000 bar)
- Injection velocity

$$u \approx \sqrt{\frac{2\Delta P}{\rho_{\text{fuel}}}} \approx 500 \text{ m/s @ } \Delta P \text{ of 1000 bar}$$

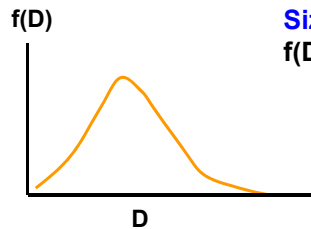
### Fuel Atomization Process

- Liquid break up governed by balance between aerodynamic force and surface tension

$$\text{Webber Number } (W_b) = \frac{\rho_{\text{gas}} u^2 d}{\sigma}$$

- Critical Webber number:  $W_{b,\text{critical}} \sim 30$ ; diesel fuel surface tension  $\sim 2.5 \times 10^{-2}$  N/m
- Typical  $W_b$  at nozzle outlet  $> W_{b,\text{critical}}$ ; fuel shattered into droplets within  $\sim$  one nozzle diameter
- Droplet size distribution in spray depends on further droplet breakup, coalescence and evaporation

## Droplet size distribution



**Size distribution:**

$f(D)dD$  = probability of finding particle with diameter in the range of  $(D, D + dD)$

$$1 = \int_0^{\infty} f(D) dD$$

**Average diameter**

$$\bar{D} = \frac{\int_0^{\infty} f(D) D dD}{\int_0^{\infty} f(D) dD}$$

**Volume distribution**

$$\frac{1}{V} \frac{dV}{dD} = \frac{f(D) D^3}{\int_0^{\infty} f(D) D^3 dD}$$

**Sauter Mean Diameter (SMD)**

$$D_{32} = \frac{\int_0^{\infty} f(D) D^3 dD}{\int_0^{\infty} f(D) D^2 dD}$$

## Droplet Size Distribution

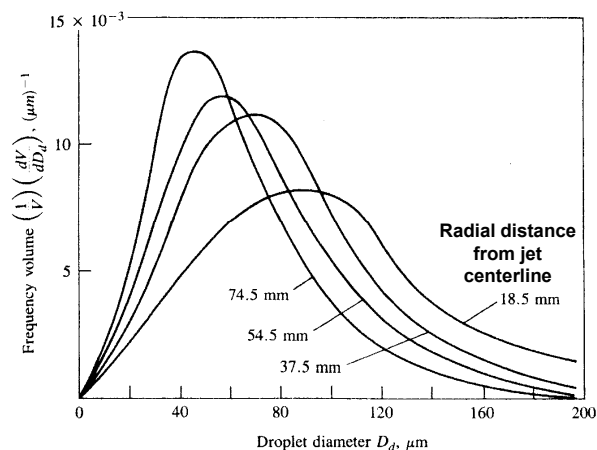
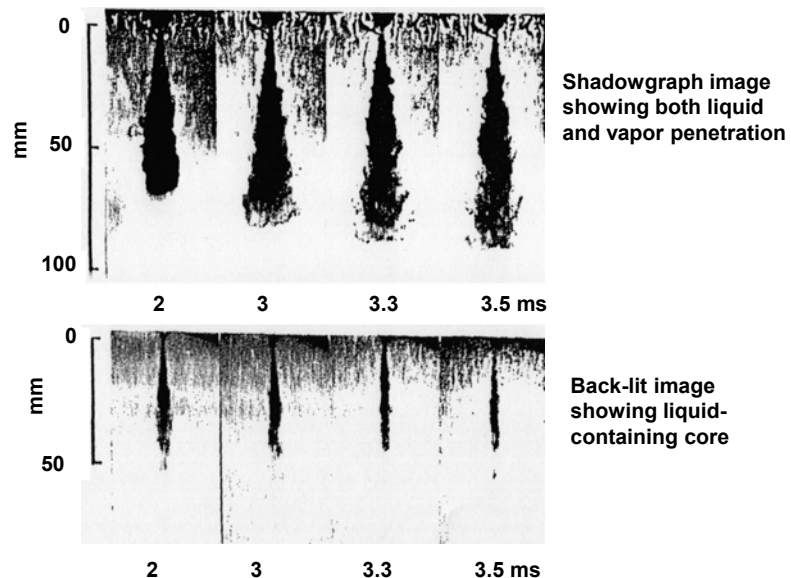


Fig. 10.28 Droplet size distribution measured well downstream; numbers on the curves are radial distances from jet axis. Nozzle opening pressure at 10 MPa; injection into air at 11 bar.

## Droplet Behavior in Spray

- Small drops ( $\sim$  micron size) follow gas stream; large ones do not
  - Relaxation time  $\tau \propto d^2$
- Evaporation time  $\propto d^2$ 
  - Evaporation time small once charge is ignited
- Spray angle depends on nozzle geometry and gas density :  $\tan(\theta/2) \propto \sqrt{(\rho_{\text{gas}}/\rho_{\text{liquid}})}$
- Spray penetration depends on injection momentum, mixing with charge air, and droplet evaporation

## Spray Penetration: vapor and liquid (Fig. 10-20)



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## Auto-ignition Process

### PHYSICAL PROCESSES (Physical Delay)

- Drop atomization
- Evaporation
- Fuel vapor/air mixing

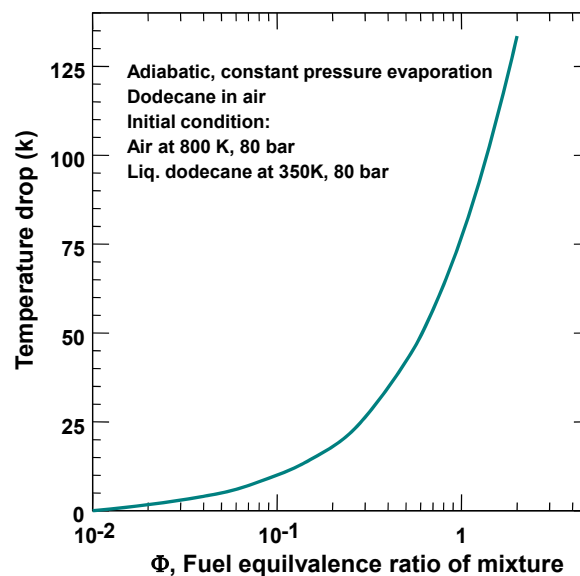
### CHEMICAL PROCESSES (Chemical Delay)

- Chain initiation
- Chain propagation
- Branching reactions

### CETANE IMPROVERS

- Alkyl Nitrates
  - 0.5% by volume increases CN by ~10

## Mixture cooling from heat of vaporization



## Ignition Mechanism: similar to SI engine knock

### CHAIN BRANCHING EXPLOSION

Chemical reactions lead to increasing number of **radicals**, which leads to rapidly increasing reaction rates

<u>Chain Initiation</u>	<u>Formation of Branching Agents</u>
$RH + O_2 \Rightarrow \dot{R} + \dot{H}O_2$	$\dot{R}O_2 + RH \Rightarrow ROOH + \dot{R}$
<u>Chain Propagation</u>	$\dot{R}O_2 \Rightarrow R'CHO + R''\dot{O}$
$\dot{R} + O_2 \Rightarrow \dot{R}O_2, \text{ etc.}$	<u>Degenerate Branching</u>
	$ROOH \Rightarrow \dot{R}O + \dot{O}H$
	$R'CHO + O_2 \Rightarrow R'\dot{C}O + \dot{H}O_2$

## Cetane Rating

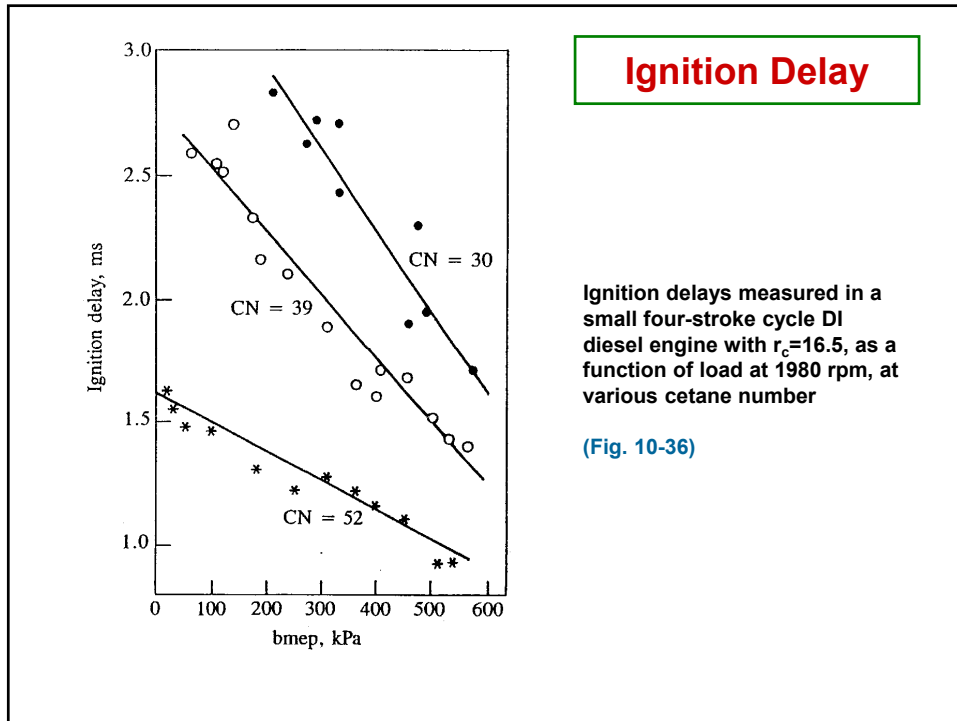
(Procedure is similar to Octane Rating for SI Engine; for details, see 10.6.2 of text)

### **Primary Reference Fuels:**

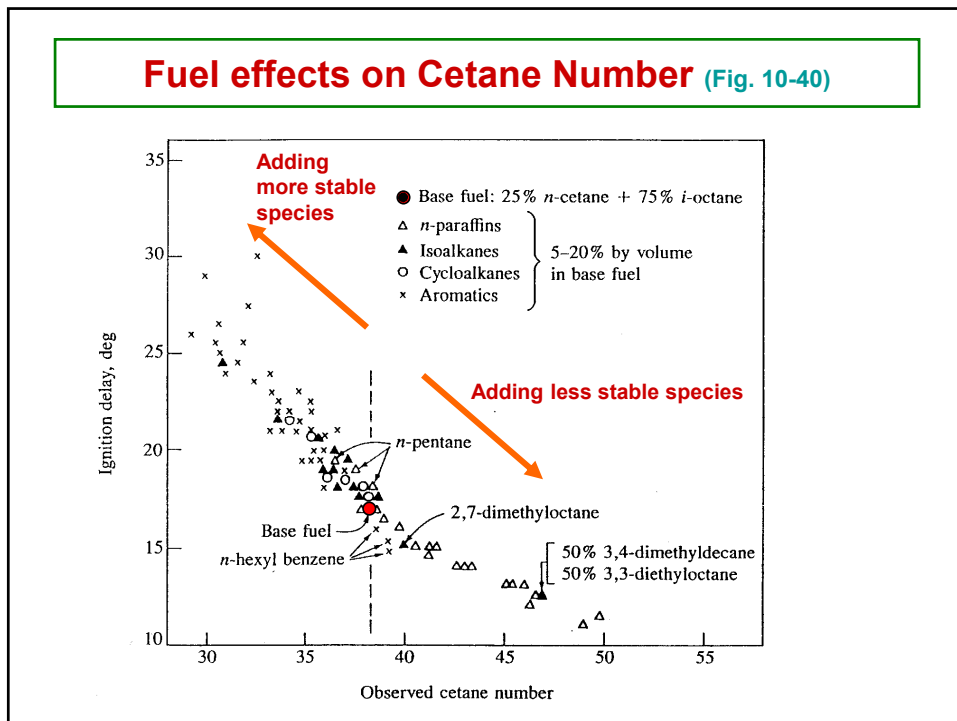
- Normal cetane ( $C_{16}H_{34}$ ): CN = 100
- Hepta-Methyl-Nonane (HMN;  $C_{16}H_{34}$ ): CN = 15  
(2-2-4-4-6-8-8 Heptamethylnonane)

### **Rating:**

- Operate CFR engine at 900 rpm with fuel
- Injection at 13° BTC
- Adjust compression ratio until ignition at TDC
- Replace fuel by reference fuel blend and change blend proportion to get same ignition point
- $CN = \% \text{ n-cetane} + 0.15 \times \% \text{ HMN}$



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## Ignition Delay Calculations

- Difficulty: do not know local conditions (species concentration and temperature) to apply kinetics information

Two practical approaches:

- Use an “instantaneous” delay expression

$$\tau(T, P) = P^{-n} \exp(-E_A / T)$$

and solve ignition delay ( $\tau_{id}$ ) from

$$1 = \int_{t_{si}}^{t_{si} + \tau_{id}} \frac{1}{\tau(T(t), P(t))} dt$$

- Use empirical correlation of  $\tau_{id}$  based on T, P at an appropriate charge condition; e.g. Eq. (10.37 of text)

$$\tau_{id}(CA) = (0.36 + 0.22 \bar{S}_p \text{ (m/s)}) \exp \left[ E_A \left( \frac{1}{RT(K)} - \frac{1}{17190} \right) + \left( \frac{21.2}{P(\text{bar}) - 12.4} \right)^{0.63} \right]$$

$$E_A \text{ (Joules per mole)} = 618,840 / (CN + 25)$$

## Diesel Engine Combustion Air Fuel Mixing Process

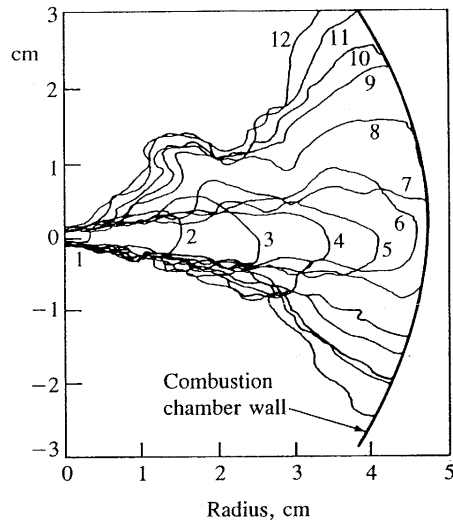
- Importance of air utilization
  - Smoke-limit A/F ~ 20
- Fuel jet momentum / wall interaction has a larger influence on the early part of the combustion process
- Charge motion impacts the later part of the combustion process (after end-of-injection)

### CHARGE MOTION CONTROL

- Intake created motion: swirl, etc.
  - Not effective for low speed large engine
- Piston created motion - squish



## Interaction of fuel jet and the chamber wall

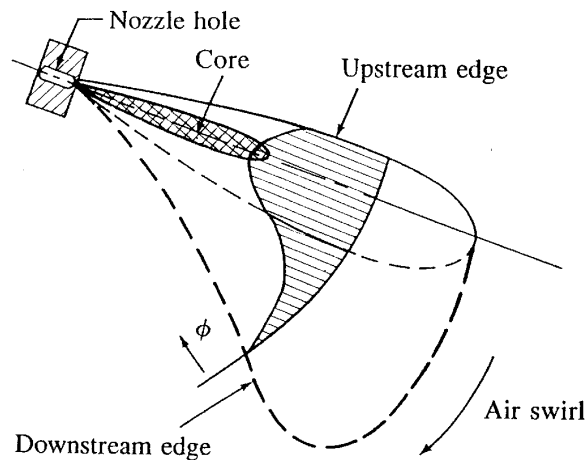


Sketches of outer vapor boundary of diesel fuel spray from 12 successive frames (0.14 ms apart) of high-speed shadowgraph movie. Injection pressure at 60 MPa.

Fig. 10-21

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## Interaction of fuel jet with air swirl



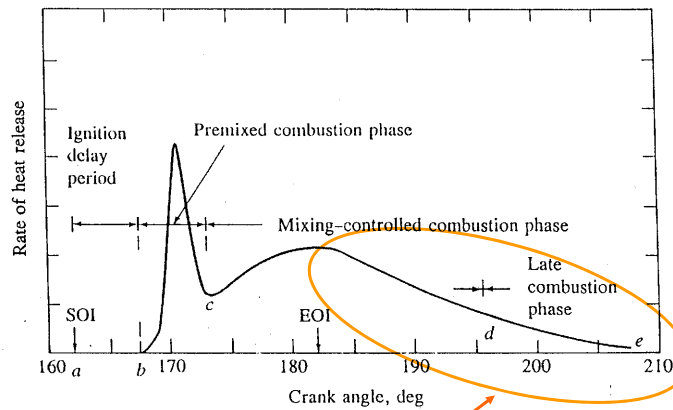
Schematic of fuel jet – air swirl interaction;  $\phi$  is the fuel equivalence ratio distribution

Fig. 10-22

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## Rate of Heat Release in Diesel Combustion

(Fig. 10.8 of Text)



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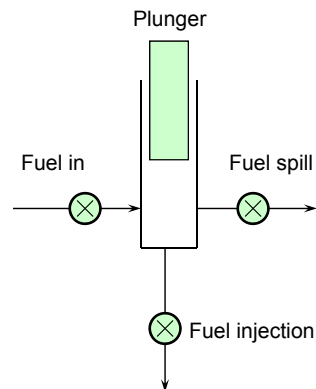
## DIESEL FUEL INJECTION HARDWARE

- High pressure system
  - precision parts for flow control
- Fast action
  - high power movements



**Expensive system**

## FUEL METERING AND INJECTION SYSTEM - CONCEPT

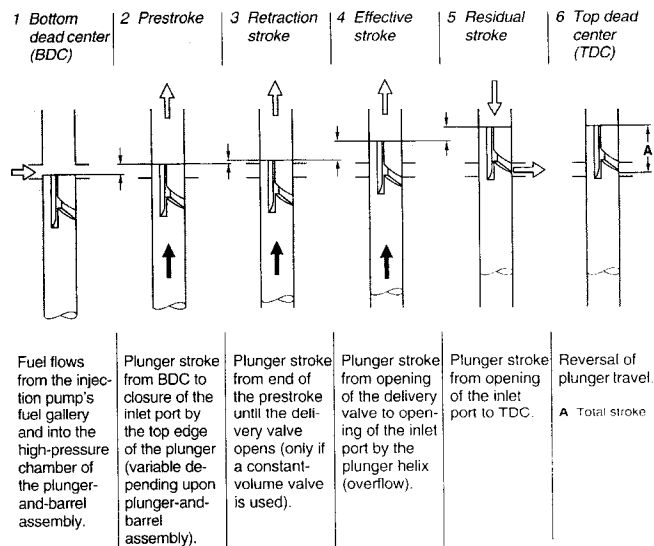


Process:

- Fill
- Pressurize
- Inject
- Spill

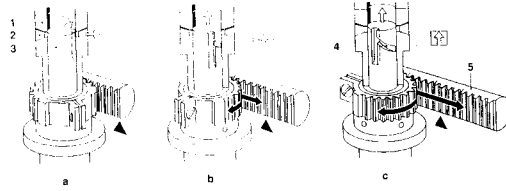
### Fuel Delivery Control

**Fig. 3: Plunger-stroke phases**



From *Diesel Fuel Injection*, Robert Bosch GmbH, 1994

**Fig. 4: Fuel-delivery control**  
Using a toothed control rack. a) Zero delivery. b) Partial delivery. c) Maximum delivery.  
1 Pump barrel, 2 Inlet port, 3 Pump plunger, 4 Helix, 5 Control rack.

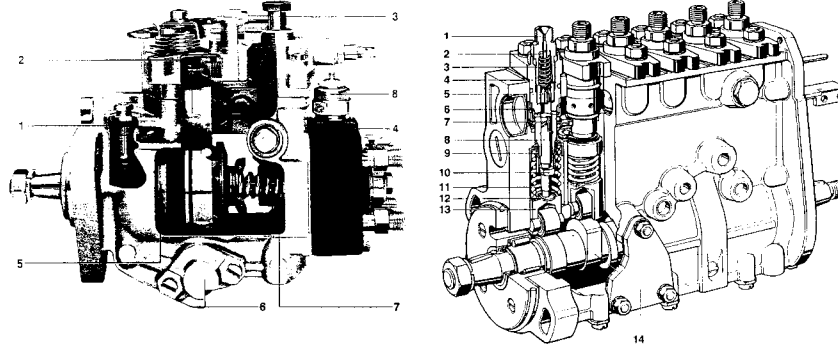


## Fuel Rack and In-line Pump

From *Diesel Fuel Injection*,  
Robert Bosch GmbH, 1994

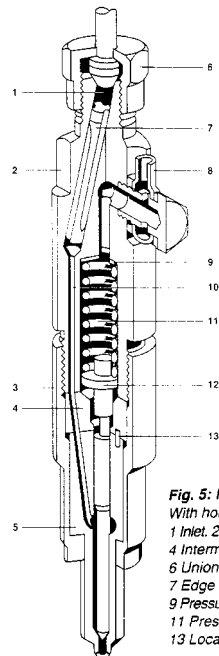
**Fig. 1: PES in-line fuel-injection pump**  
1 Delivery-valve holder, 2 Filter piece, 3 Delivery-valve spring, 4 Pump barrel, 5 Delivery valve, 6 Inlet port and spill port, 7 Control helix, 8 Pump plunger, 9 Control sleeve, 10 Plunger control arm, 11 Plunger spring, 12 Spring seat, 13 Roller tappet, 14 Cam, 15 Control rack.

### Distributor pump

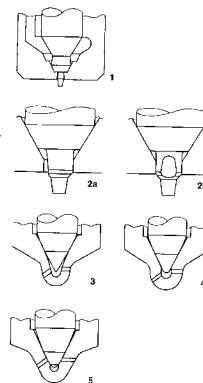


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## Diesel Injector



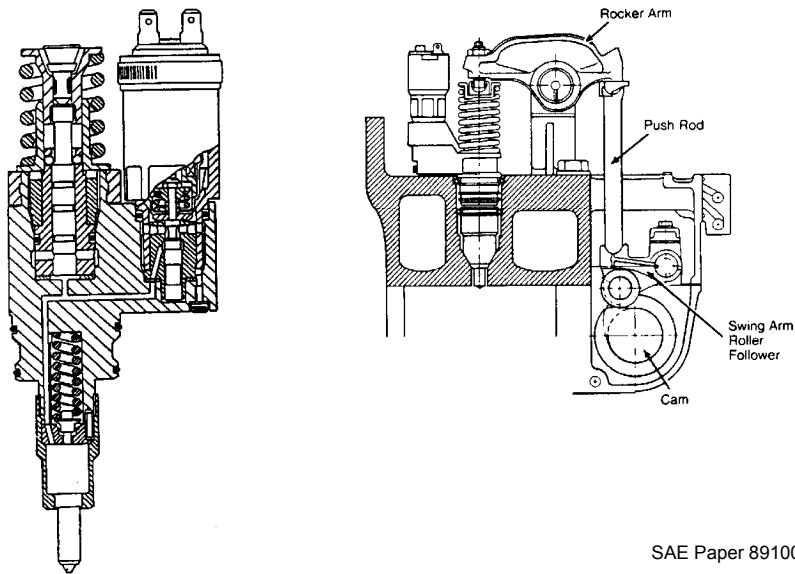
**Fig. 2: Nozzle shapes**  
1 Throttling pintle nozzle,  
2 Throttling pintle nozzle with flat-cut pintle,  
2a Side view, 2b Front view,  
3 Hole-type nozzle with conical blind hole,  
4 Hole-type nozzle with cylindrical blind hole,  
5 Seat-hole nozzle.



**Fig. 5: Nozzle-and-holder assembly**  
With hole-type nozzle.  
1 Inlet, 2 Nozzle-holder body, 3 Nozzle-retaining nut,  
4 Intermediate element, 5 Injection nozzle,  
6 Union nut with high-pressure line,  
7 Edge filter, 8 Leak-off connection,  
9 Pressure-adjusting shims, 10 Pressure passage,  
11 Pressure spring, 12 Pressure pin,  
13 Locating pins.

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### Electronic Unit Injector



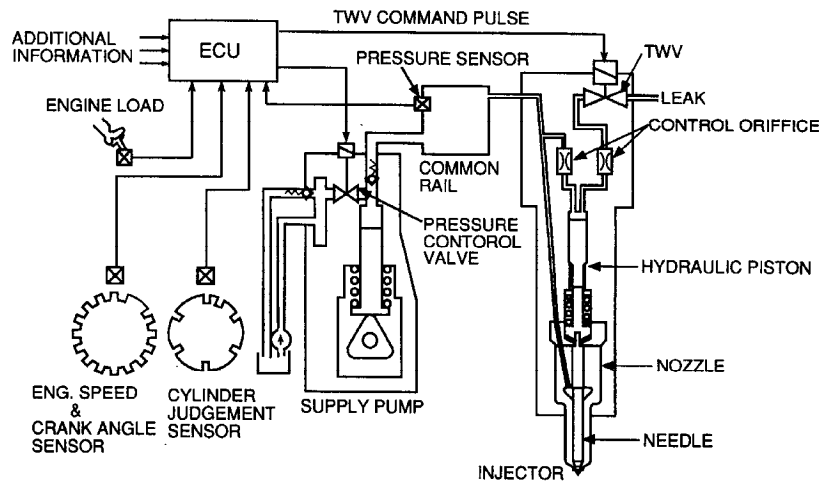
SAE Paper 891001

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### Injection pressure

- Positive displacement injection system
  - Injection pressure adjusted to accommodate plunger motion
  - Injection pressure  $\propto \text{rpm}^2$
- Injection characteristics speed dependent
  - Injection pressure too high at high rpm
  - Injection pressure too low at low rpm

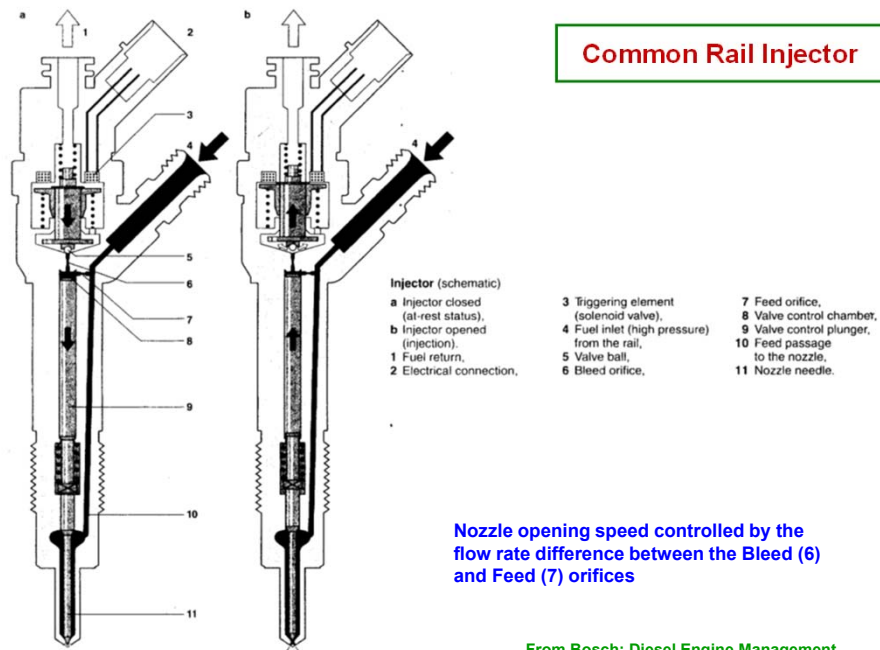
## Common Rail Fuel Injection System



SAE Paper 1999-01-0833

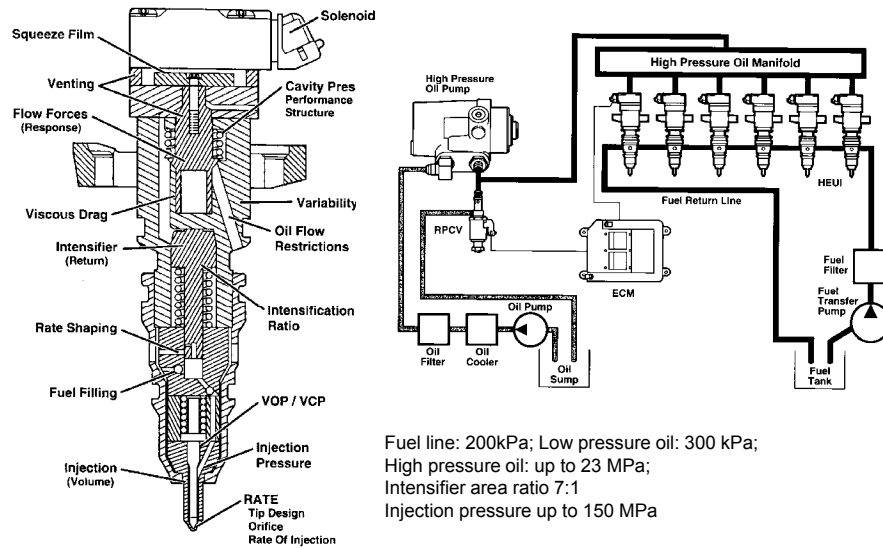
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## Common Rail Injector



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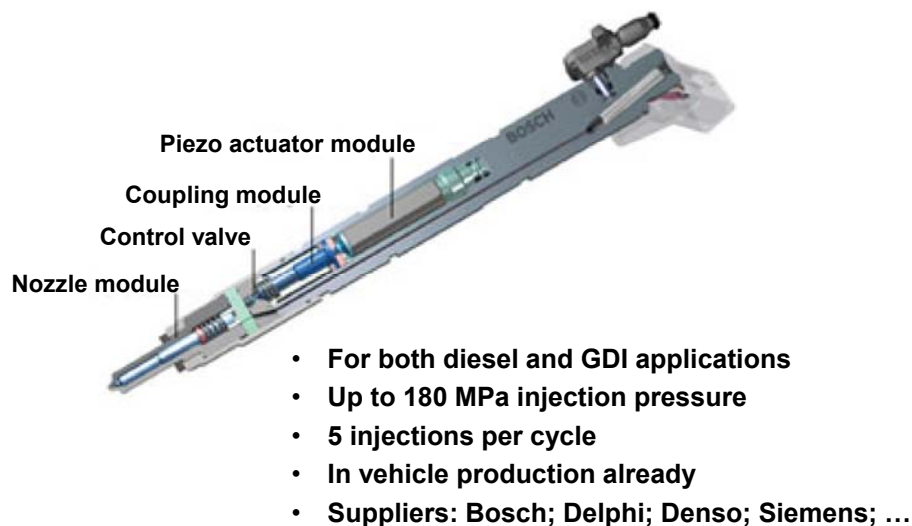
### Caterpillar Hydraulic Electronic Unit Injector (HEUI)



SAE Papers 930270, 930271

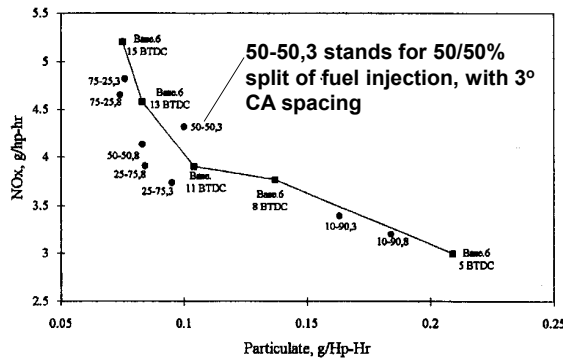
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### Piezoelectric injectors

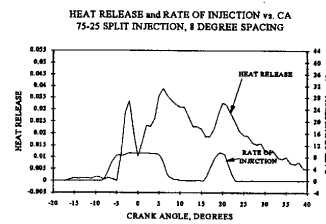
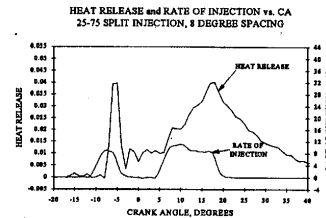


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## Split Injection (SAE Paper 940668)

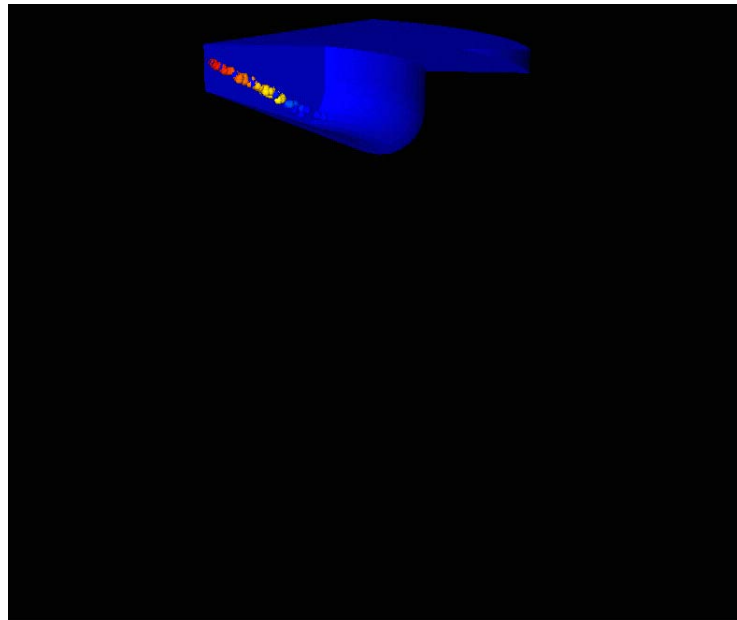


1600 rpm, 184 KPa manifold pressure, overall fuel equivalence ratio = 0.45;



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## Split injection cfd simulation





## **CHALLENGES IN DIESEL COMBUSTION**

### **Heavy Duty Diesel Engines**

- NOx emission
- Particulate emission
- Power density
- Noise

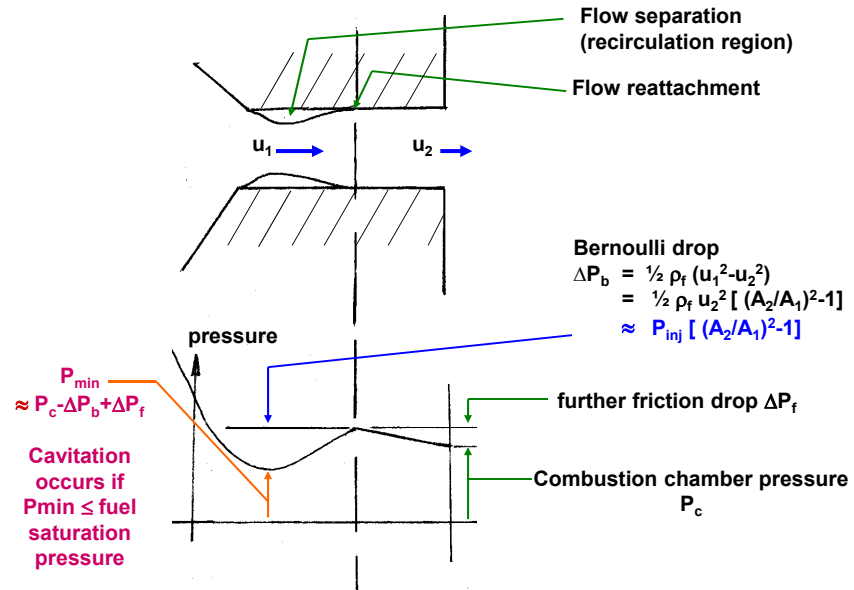
### **High Speed Passenger Car Diesel Engines**

- All of the above, plus
  - Fast burn rate

## **Cavitation in Injection Nozzle**

- Cavitation happens when local pressure is lower than the fluid vapor pressure
- Effects
  - Discharge rate
  - Affects the spray angle
  - Damage to the nozzle passage
- Factors affecting cavitation
  - Combustion chamber pressure
  - Local streamline curvature within the nozzle

### Flow process that leads to cavitation



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